



Remembrances of those who are our Merit Scholarships are named. The stories behind these extremely significant individuals are so much bigger than any words can say as they helped build and shape Alpine Skiing in Vermont. Their lives impacted VARA and Vermont skiers in so many ways.



**Mickey Cochran** has been described as many things: an athlete, a soldier, an engineer, and a teacher. Growing up in Massachusetts, Mickey was a standout in Baseball and Football and went on to pitch and play quarterback for the University of Vermont. He served in the 84<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division in France and Germany during World War II. His unit was surrounded in the Battle of the Bulge where he saw significant action, his athletic prowess likely helping him survive with minor wounds. Returning to Vermont after the war, Mickey spent two years searching for land to put a rope tow on so his four young children could learn to ski. Almost 60 years later Cochran's has become one of the most popular family-oriented ski areas in the country, enabling anyone who wishes an opportunity to learn to ski. Mickey lived by the adage, "be the best with what you have."

The Mickey Cochran Award is presented to an athlete competing at the FIS Level, is a Vermont resident, and has come up through the Vermont Council System.



**Betty Clayton** was known as "Everyone's Grandmother." Growing up in NJ she started skiing at a small ski area in the 1930s. After moving to Manchester, Vermont in 1956 Betty got right into the racing scene, carting her sons around to Bromley so they could compete in the local after school program. Like many families after the depression, finances were tight but she found a way to make ski racing work for her family. She joined VARA as a board member in 1981 and made it her mission to assist young athlete's who had potential but needed money to achieve their dreams. Betty was extremely dedicated and passionate about the smaller clubs in the state – she was a real voice for them on the VARA board and that voice clearly helped shape our mission and goals to this day.

The Betty Clayton Award is presented to a U21-U16 level athlete who has attained top results while participating in a club program.

**Ginny Hunt** -Before many of the Vermont ski programs became popular, **Ginny Hunt** was taking young groups of skiers on jaunts through her sugar bush in Cambridge, VT. It was during those outings that Ginny realized the importance of developing small programs and inspiring younger athletes to get out on the ski slopes. She went on to run the Cambridge Ski Program, The Northfield Outing Club, and the Madonna Mountain Ski Program before it became the Smuggler's Notch Ski Club. Her tireless dedication to

volunteer her time in order to get these smaller programs off the ground and running has been her lasting legacy.

The Ginny Hunt Award is presented to one girl and one boy from a college or club program at the U21-U16 level who exhibits sportsmanship, dedication and commitment to the sport of ski racing at all levels, who inspires younger athletes by being a strong role model who displays leadership both on and off the hill, and who shows interest in the development and future of the sport of ski racing.



**George Tormey** was born in Wakefield, R.I. in 1955. After moving to Randolph, Vermont and with the encouragement of his father, George became a top alpine racer – notching off collegiate and NorAm wins on his way to the Johnson State College hall of fame. He then became a well-known skier in the Stowe area – coaching for the Mt. Mansfield Ski Club with stints on the US Ski team as well. In 1987 George went to work for the K2 Ski Company, testing and developing the newest K2 skis. While at K2 George became the beloved rep to many aspiring ski racers and is fondly remembered for all the helpful words of encouragement he doled out in times of need. Not only was George an extremely successful ski racer and coach, but he also had a passion and drive for competing in trials biking.

The George Tormey Award is presented to an athlete who excels at a second sport and best displays a strong work ethic, strong character, and a deep love of sport.



**Shelley Glover** was a gifted athlete, but, more than that, she was an inspiration. She chased her dream with an unwavering commitment and passion, and did it all with humility and a profound compassion for others. Born in Madison, WI in 1986 Shelley began ski racing locally for the Tyrol Basin Ski Team. In 2001 she began her sophomore year at Burke Mountain Academy and quickly gained momentum, joining the US Ski Team for the 2003 season. Shelley was a true friend and a person that cared about all, spending much time helping her younger peers manage the ski racing life while working hard and being a positive role model at Burke Mountain Academy.

The Shelley Glover Scholarship is awarded each year to a young individual who shows compassion for those around them who are in need, who reaches out to and enjoys working with younger individuals, who displays dedication and commitment to academics, who inspires fellow athletes to reach their potential, raise their expectations, and exceed their limitations, who skis with passion, power, and determination, tenacity, perseverance, and drive through their training, and who enjoys the journey that leads to success.



**Ronald "Ronnie" Berlack**, originally hailed from Franconia, NH, a Burke Mountain Academy athlete from his youth through his accomplishment of making the US Ski Team in 2014. Passionate, hard- working and a fun loving person, Ronnie worked very hard for his place on the US Ski Team and honored his spot with pride. His pure love of friends, the journey through life and ski racing along with his fantastic laugh and bright smile drew people to him with ease and comfort. In 2015 a tragic avalanche accident cost

Ronnie his life.

Since the accident there has been an increased awareness of avalanche safety through The Eastern Snow and Avalanche Workshop and the formation of the Bryce and Ronnie Athlete Safety and Security (BRASS) Foundation which was formed in honor of the lives Ronald "Ronnie" Berlack and his friend and U.S. Ski Team member Bryce Astle, who were tragically [killed in an avalanche in Soelden, Austria](#), on Jan. 5, 2015.

The VARA Ronnie Berlack Award is presented to the VARA member athlete or recent alum (within a year of VARA membership) who exhibits drive and determination and has successfully pushed through the selection and nomination process for the NTG, D Team, or C Team programs. This individual thrives on the experiences of the journey and has a true love of the sport. The amount is \$1,000 to assist in funding the program's fees.